

Palos Verdes Estates Police Department

Coyote Management Strategy

The City of Palos Verdes Estates contracts through the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (LACDACC) for general animal control services. All animal control issues are handled through the police department. There are several areas that fall outside of this contract and the purview of the LACDACC; namely, coyote management. The police department handles coyote management throughout the City of Palos Verdes Estates.

Management Strategy

Our strategy for managing coyotes is based on balancing respect and protection for wildlife and their habitats without compromising public safety. The main strategy is based on four key areas to support coexistence with urban coyotes using tracking data, education, behavior modification, and a response plan.

Tracking Data

The police departments encourages its residents to report coyote activity and provide detailed information about the coyote and its behavior. Monitoring and data collection are critical components of an effective coyote management plan. This information allows the police department to better monitor human-coyote interactions and to identify human-coyote hotspots. Gathering specific data on incidents will allow for targeted educational campaigns and conflict mitigation efforts, as well as the ability to measure success in reducing conflicts over time.

Education

Education is the key to having residents make appropriate decisions regarding their safety or managing their property and pets. This involves decreasing attractants, increasing pet safety and creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior. In addition, it is equally important to educate the public on the fact that coyotes are indigenous to the area and play an important role in the ecosystem.

Learning how to respond to a coyote encounter empowers residents and supports reshaping undesired coyote behavior. The public should understand what normal coyote behavior is when living in close proximity with coyotes. Education and outreach includes:

- a) Understanding human safety, pet safety, coyote attractants, deterrents to coyotes on private property, including appropriate fencing, “what to/and not to do” tips, and information on appropriate hazing techniques.
- b) Dissemination of information to residents, businesses, and schools through the City’s website, media, flyers, handouts, and police department’s volunteer programs.
- c) Partnering with agencies like the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture to provide public education material, programs and expertise.

Behavior Modification

Some coyotes have become too comfortable in the close proximity of people. To safely coexist,

it's important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations. Habituated coyote behavior needs to be reshaped to encourage coyotes to avoid contact with humans and pets. This can be accomplished through "hazing" the animal. Hazing is the process whereby a number of individuals encountering a coyote in like manner to make a coyote uncomfortable and choose to leave a situation where their presence is unwanted.

Response Plan

A response plan has been developed and used to provide a mechanism for identifying and classifying different levels of human and coyote interactions. This plan allows the police department to classify the coyote behavior and determine the most appropriate response.

In some instances, and only as a last resort, trapping is required. In these cases, the police department contracts with Animal Pest Management (APM) for an assessment and trapping plan. If a trapping plan is instituted and a coyote(s) is caught, it must be euthanized per California State Law.

Other information on local agencies:

The Los Angeles County Animal Control and Care will only respond to injured/dead coyotes and will not respond to assist with coyote management.

The Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture (LACDA) manages the County's coyote population for unincorporated areas of the County and cities that contract for Predatory Animal Services. This service is not available to the City of Palos Verdes Estates. Although the LACDA not trap in the City, they will provide educational resources, training, and limited field work upon request.

Additional Resources can be found on the City's website at www.pvestates.org under the Police Department tab.